



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

February 24, 2005

News Release

ICE DEPORTATION OFFICER RETURNS HOME AFTER SERVING IN IRAQ

Officer welcomed back by friends and co-workers

ATLANTA- After 13 months fighting insurgents and terrorists on the front lines in Iraq, Marine Gunnery Sergeant Charles “Russ” Dean has returned home to fight on the front lines of homeland security.

Dean, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deportation officer, returned to work Monday with much the same mission he had in Iraq. As an employee of ICE, he is part of the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities. Dean is one of more than 100 ICE employees who have served, or are currently serving, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dean was welcomed back to work Monday by co-workers and friends after serving as platoon sergeant for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force’s Reconnaissance Company in Iraq. He led a team of 24 Marines who sought out high-value targets and worked to counter improvised explosive device ambushes. Dean spent the majority of his time in Al Husaybah and also served three weeks in Fallujah.

“We are grateful for his service to our country, both at home and abroad, and we welcome him back to his family at home and friends at work,” said John A. Mata, Atlanta’s field office director for detention and removal. “The nation owes a debt of gratitude to Dean and the many service men and women serving our country today around the globe. We’re proud to have Dean serving again with us here at home, and whether he’s protecting us as a platoon sergeant or a deportation officer, he’s still protecting the American public from any possible threat.”

The Atlanta DRO Field Office hosted a welcoming party for Dean on his first day back. Friends and co-workers from ICE and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) were in attendance, welcoming him home and offering thanks for his courageous service.

“I am happy to be home and very honored by this welcome back gathering,” Dean said. “I’m especially grateful to my family members for their support and encouragement during my absence.”

Dean and his wife Laurie are the proud parents of one-year-old James Farris, five-year-old Alexandria Katelyn and two-year-old Charles Russell III.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.